

No. 6055.—November 11, 1885.]

Ten flag of Vice-Admiral Vesey Hamilton, was hoisted this morning at 8 o'clock on board the *Audacious*, and was saluted by a salvo from the British and Foreign men-of-war in harbour.

Ten *Lezang*, the new steamer for the Indo China Steam Navigation Co., has passed through the Suez Canal, on her way out here. She is under the command of Captain Quatley, late of the *Glendy*.

Two more of the 270 policemen left Shanghai on the morning of the 4th inst. Just a month ago two men deserted. The so-called reorganised force (says the *News*) is now reduced by twenty-nine men.

The Shanghai *Courier* of the 6th inst. states that there had been a big fight in silk on that day, some buyers having taken advantage of the holidays to settle about 1700 bales. It looked as if the 'noble article' were going to have a turn at last.

On the 5th inst. at Shanghai, the *Admiral*, while going to the wharf, swung round on some cargo-boats laden with rice, crushing one and upsetting another. The *News* states that some of the rice was afterwards recovered.

The *N. D. News* says that the velocity of the wind at Shanghai on the morning of the 4th was nearly fifty miles an hour. The French man-of-war *Roland* lost one of her anchors through the cable parting, but she held on to the other anchor and sustained no damage.

The M. M. Co.'s steamer *Orizaba*, from London to Marseilles, has been in collision, and was obliged to put in at Almeria, on the Mediterranean coast of Spain, for repairs. Her London cargo was too late for the *Peiho*, which will be brought on by the *Melbourne*, which is due here on Saturday or Sunday next.

There are (says the *News*) two American vessels on the way out from New York to Shanghai, and their names are somewhat similar. One is the *George R. Shufeldt*, of 1,645 tons, and the other the *Geo. Shufeldt*, of 1,276 tons. The former is a new ship, and is commanded by Captain Dunning. The master of the latter is Captain Hale.

From an advertisement it will be observed that an extraordinary meeting of shareholders in the Steam Laundry Company will be held on the 20th inst., to decide whether the Laundry is to be closed or carried on. It seems a pity that this Company is not sufficiently supported, for it is certainly a sanitary boon to the Colony.

Eight strapping young fellows, hailing from Glasgow, arrived here to-day by the *S. S. Dunbartonshire*, to join the Hongkong Police Force. These men, and some others who are to follow, have been selected and engaged by Mr. G. Horspool, Chief Inspector, now at Hong Kong. The new draft will be examined by the Colonial Surgeon and sworn in at the Magistracy to-morrow morning.

Mr. Justice Acland having at last issued a commission for the examination of witnesses in *Mago* in the *Mifner v. Ebo de China* libel case, Mr. A. G. Wise, the Commissioner, with Messrs Caldwell and Deacon, solicitors for the defendant and the plaintiff respectively, will proceed to Macao to-morrow, to hear the evidence of not less than ten witnesses.

We understand that the Court will assemble at the British Vice-Consulate.

We understand that the fire-bell at the Central Fire Brigade Station, Queen's Road Central, which had for some time been crooked, was broken on the occasion of last fire alarm being sounded, and that the bell in the Clock-tower is to be taken down and transferred to the Station in its place. The task of getting the bell down from the tower is not an easy one. It is thought possible that the broken bell may be re-cast in the Colony.

We hear that one of the Chinese passengers from Singapore by the *S. S. Utmanou*, which arrived here this morning, was robbed a day or two before his arrival here of jewellery to the value of about \$5,000 and a cheque or draft upon a Chinese firm at Amoy for \$5,000. Two of the other passengers of the *Utmanou* have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the theft, and will probably be examined to-morrow. Payment of the stolen cheque has been stopped by telegram.

A riot took place this morning in Lascar Row between two Malay seamen belonging to the *S. S. Tei ang* in which one of the men inflicted a wound on the forehead of his antagonist, either with a knife or a stone. It does not appear clear at present which weapon was used. The wounded man was sent from the Central Station to the Government Civil Hospital and his assailant is in custody and will probably be brought before the Magistracy to-morrow morning.

The news of a sad drowning accident at Bangkok has been brought to the Colony by the *South-Indian Steamship Co.'s* steamer *Mongkut*, which arrived here from the Siam capital yesterday. It seems that the night before the steamer left, Mr. John Hunter, the second engineer, had been on shore on a visit to some friends, along with the third officer. In stepping on board the ship's boat, on his return, his foot slipped off the side, and he fell into the river. The night was a very dark one, and though every search was made as quickly as possible, no trace of the unfortunate man could

be seen, and up to the time the steamer left his body had not been found. Mr. Hunter was a young man, tall, well built and muscular, but whether or not he could swim we have not learned. The current in the Bangkok river is very strong; and this would militate against his chance of saving himself. He was a native of Dundee, was about 27 or 28 years of age, and had been in the same employ for two or three years. He was very popular both with his shipmates and others who knew him.

The informers who supply information to the police with regard to public gambling houses, gave anything but a pleasant time of it. They are at all times liable to be set upon, beaten and half-killed by disappointed gamblers who have been surprised by the police and mulcted by the magistrates. Assaults of this nature are frequent, but last night one of a more serious nature than usual occurred. An informer who has recently given evidence in a gambling case at the Police Court, was walking in Square Street when he was suddenly set upon by two men, one of whom inflicted upon him a severe wound with a knife or dagger in the left side of the back, both of the assailants escaping before assistance arrived. The wounded man was conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital, the wound being considered a dangerous one. The wounded man states that he can identify the man who stabbed him, but he does not know his name. Efforts are being made by the Police to find the man.

An adjourned enquiry was held at the Magistracy this afternoon by the Coroner, Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, and a jury composed of Messrs H. M. Davis, W. J. Lynd and F. D. Guedes, into the circumstances attending the death of Ip Achung, a hawker, who was found lying dead on the basement floor of a house in First Street on the 5th inst. The evidence was to the following effect: The deceased man, who had only been a few days in the Colony, was residing in a house in First Street with some friends. At about 3 a.m., on the 5th inst., he got up from his bed and told a man who was sleeping in the same room, and who was aroused by his moving, that he was going to the latrine. He left the house and did not return, but about 6.30 a.m. the body of the deceased was found by a hukong, P. C. 200, lying on the basement floor of a house which opened into First Street and Queen's Road, and which had until recently been used as a latrine. It appears that on the 1st inst. the latrine was closed and the building was in the hands of a contractor, Cheung Ah, who had removed the flooring of the latrine. A notice had been posted up by the door to the effect that the place was closed for alterations and the door had been locked. The lock, however, was broken by some person on the 3rd inst., and the contractor had been called a bar across the door. The door was, however, not very strong and it would seem that the deceased must have forced it open and then, in the dark, walked to where the flooring had been removed and fallen down below, a distance of about sixteen feet, and been killed by the fall.

There appeared from the evidence to be no blame attachable to the contractor or others, and the jury, who had first been taken to see the site of the fatal accident, returned a verdict of accidental death.

ROWING AT THE V. R. C.

Being down at the Recreation Club last evening, I had an opportunity of judging the form of all the crews, for the 'Chairman's Cup.' Goodlad's boat was the first to leave the raft, and went out in fairly good form, but, in my opinion, this crew is rather light to last the mile and a half. Bow (Thompson), who has evidently never rowed before, requires a deal of coaching. No. 2 (Shepherd) rows in very good form, but will occasionally dip rather deep. No. 3 (Parfit) who is yet a little stiff, will soon row with his usual dash. Stroke is not quite up to his old form. Next in order came Glass' crew, and, although three out of the four oarsmen have previously distinguished themselves, I was rather disappointed with their display. Bow (Wifford), who made his first appearance last night, hardly seemed to have recovered from his recent indisposition. No. 2 (Kennedy) has all the material to make a good oarsman, and I shall expect him to render a good account of himself at the Begonia. No. 3 (Mills), apparently rows a stroke of his own, and gets out of the water far too soon. Stroke, who spends a deal of time fixing up his boat, might, with advantage, transfer his attentions to the training of his crew. The third boat to leave was the *Thistle*, stroked by Grace, and I was favourably impressed with the style of the crew. Bow (Edmunds) rows in excellent form, and No. 2 (Jackson) though perhaps not so graceful, rows very strongly. No. 3 (Fredericks) is as yet a griffin, but, with a little coaching, should prove a tower of strength. Stroke, a new candidate for aquatic honours, appears to be training in earnest, and I shall expect to see the *Thistle* well to the front. Next came the *Shamrock*, stroked by Thompson, and although his crew do not as yet appear to have caught his stroke, I shall expect to see them rowing well together before very long. Last but not least, came the veteran, Isaac Hughes, who has a powerful crew behind him. 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